Pesticides in soft drinks etc.

2041. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI ABANI ROY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued a draft notification to revise standards to regulate the presence of metals and pesticides in soft drinks, mineral water and beverages;

(b) if so, the details of soft drinks, mineral water and beverages included in the proposed draft notification;

(c) whether Government have invited any suggestions from public before it is considered and notified under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) A draft notification proposing to lay down the limits for pesticide residues and metals in carbonated water, fruits and vegetable juices, fruit syrup, fruit squash, fruit beverages or fruit drink, soft drink concentrate and ready to serve beverages has been published *vide* GSR 685(E) dated 26-8-2003 for inviting objections/ suggestions from the public. The date for inviting objections/suggestions has been extended upto 31st December, 2003.

A Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) has been set up to suggest criteria for evolving suitable safety standards for these products. Further action on the draft notification will be initiated after the receipt of the report of the JPC.

Anti-cancer Drug

2042. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Committee headed by DG, ICMR was examining the issue relating to permission accorded to

Dr. Reddy's Laboratory, Hyderabad to manufacture and market r-hu-GCSE injection, an anti-cancer drug in the country.

(b) if so, the conclusions of the report; and

(c) the decision taken by Government in pursuance of the recommendations of the above Committee?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The recommendations of the Committee are as follows:

1. As Grastim and Neupogen are identical according to all the test carried out, DRL is entitled to use the INN Filgrastim for their recombinant human methionine GCSF.
2. In view of the WHO-INN committee's recommendations that in the choice of the brand name, the stem of the INN should not be used.

Based on the recommendations of the expert committee, Dr. Reddy's Lab has been directed to withdraw their brand name GRASTIM for the marketing of Filgrastim and copy enclosed to the concerned State Licensing Authority.

ICMR's action-plan on bio-terrorism

2043. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has developed a comprehensive action-plan to strengthen capability to combat the threat of bio-terrorism;

(b) if so, the details of the specific infectious organisms identified so far;

(c) the number of bio-safety laboratories set up so far and the locations thereof;

(d) the countries/ foreign organisations assisting in setting up bio-safety laboratories; and